

Remarks

The Advisory Action dated April 24, 2006, has been carefully considered.

A Request for Continued Examination is being concurrently filed for this application.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 20-21, 28, and 29 were rejected in the Final Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pesce, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,844,430). The Final Office Action also rejected claims 2-6, 8, 11, 13-19, 22-27, and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pesce et al. as applied to claims 1, 7, 9-10, 12, 20-21 and 28-29 above.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that Pesce et al. discloses a disposable absorbent article made from cationic polysaccharides including aminopolysaccharides such that said aminopolysaccharides can be crosslinked with a crosslinking agent including polycarboxylic acids, col 9, line 16. Pesce et al. may disclose this, but this disclosure is not the present invention as set forth in the claims. Pesce et al. defines the disposable absorbent article in column 4 lines 31 to 65. The disposable absorbent article of Pesce et al. is not the superabsorbent polymer of the present invention.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that all the components can be mixed. The present invention is not directed to mixing the components, but to a superabsorbent polymer that is the reaction product of a polymeric resin that is preneutralized to up to 50mol% and an aminopolysaccharide polymer wherein the polymeric resin is neutralized by the aminopolysaccharide polymer so that the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of about 20mole % or more than the preneutralized degree of the polymeric resin composition.

The Examiner states that all the components can be mixed. The chemical formulation of the articles includes all components specified in the present claims. Pesce et al does not disclose a superabsorbent polymer comprising a polymeric resin composition and an aminopolysaccharide polymer. Pesce et al. does not disclose such a superabsorbent polymer.

In view of the foregoing it is requested that the rejection of Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12, 20-21, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pesce, et al., and claims 2-6, 8, 11, 13-19, 22-27, and 30-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in the Final Office Action be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claims in the present application are allowable and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any issues remain unresolved, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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